

MAVA-8942

31 July 1951

FROM

Vienna

Operational

visit to Pzmancum

Note: "...the individual previously reported as Monsignor  
Gianone ERON should in future be carried as Egon GIONNANI."

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DATE 2006

Att. / Melvin D. MAYA

On July 8, 1951 I visited the Paschaeanum with an introductory card from Norvigator Josephus Zagon to Dr. Simeon Giornani, the head of the institution. Dr. Giornani was not there at the moment, and I was received most warmly by Dr. Antoni Lopold, the head of the seminary of the Paschaeanum. Dr. Lopold, a white-haired old gentleman with a hard-set determined face and a ringing base voice, remembered I had met him in Detroit in 1949. At that time I visited the Paschaeanum several times in the company of Stephen Kosinski, then assistant political reporter in charge of Church Affairs at the American Legion in Detroit, and Dr. Witold Urban, a Marian Catholic editor who had just escaped from Hungary. Both of these men were trusted friends of the Paschaeanum, and this plus Dr. Zagora's card saying I was a friend of his who could be trusted, helped in my reception.

I enquired about Church affairs in Hungary with Dr. Lopola. He remarked that so far as they in the Fasangerev knew none of the other Catholic bishops were under arrest by the Communists. (Bishop Stell, who has been the number one recipient of abuse in the Communist press because of his outspoken stand against the Hungarian Revolution, recently officiated at a Church Beneficis. (Bish.) Mass, who was said to have been arrested with a diminished cross about five weeks ago, recently appointed two rectors. This meant he was still exercising his Church Functions, but possibly under duress. Both of the men he appointed belonged to the Communist National Peace Committee of Roma Catholic Priests, the organization into which the government was trying to enrol all priests. They were therefore unacceptable to Rome, and yet they had been appointed by Bishop Semrau, who was known to be loyal to Rome. One of the vicars however, Dr. Karastotzky, was known to have been fiercely loyal to the Vatican before he was beaten and tortured in jail and later renounced his affiliation with the Peace Committee.

After we had talked a while, Father Adam, whom I had met several times before, stepped in and we talked about his work and about Kozak, our mutual friend. Adam said he saw Kozak regularly at Bonn, where Kozak is now posted by the State-Department. I have regarded Kozak as the most knowledgeable American on Hungarian Church affairs, and it was interesting that Kozak was still keeping up his Hungarian contacts; that Adam should travel all the way to Bonn to get his advice regularly was tribute enough in fact to what Kozak knows. Adam told me he expected to be with Dr. Zagor in Klarenfurt on July 12. He told me he was living at Prinzregenten Platz 14/III, and that I should stop in ~~on~~ in Munich. He also mentioned that he was in regular liaison with Dr. Janscy, the priest who is adviser on Church affairs to Radio Free Europe in Munich.